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worlds

:// tynion > blanco > bellaire > bidikar

ANGEL
THE
FUTURE
IS
BRILLIANT
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THREADS	REPLIES	LAST POST
words by james_tynion_iv	15	1997-MAY-18
art by fernando_blanco	24	1995-FEB-05
colors by jordie_bellaire	48	1996-APR-07
letters by aditya_bidikar	36	1997-FEB-02
edits by steve_foxe	18	1993-OCT-04
design by dylan_todd	34	1997-DEC-28

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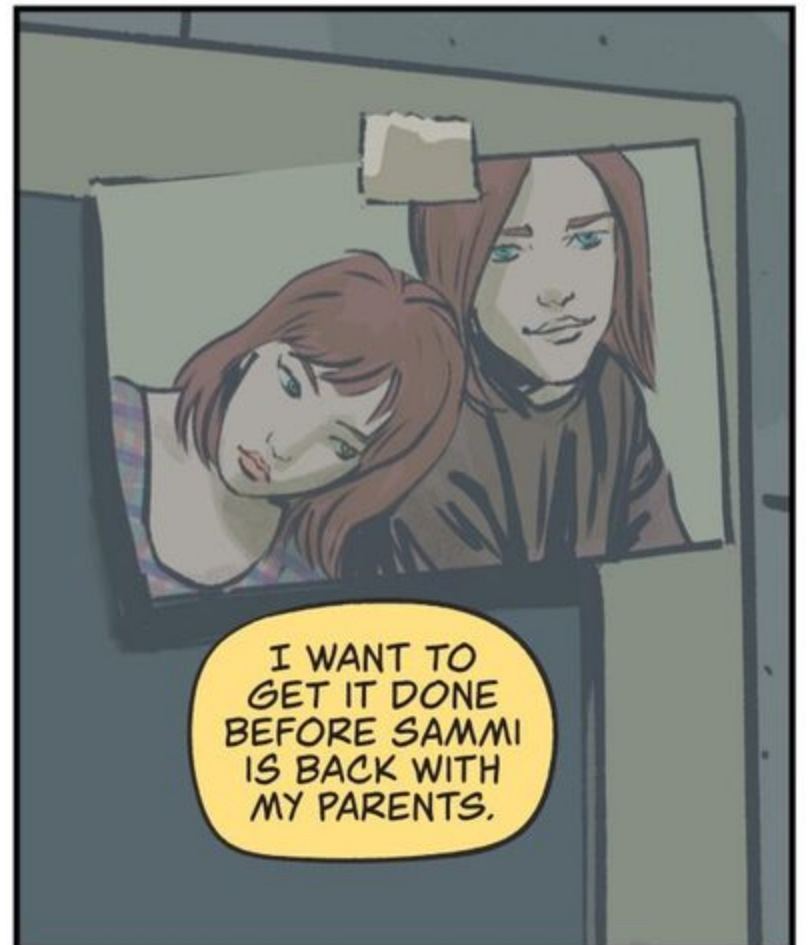
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1999

"IN THE LIVING ROOM THE VOICE-CLOCK SANG, *TICK-TOCK, SEVEN O'CLOCK, TIME TO GET UP, TIME TO GET UP, SEVEN O'CLOCK!* AS IT WERE AFRAID THAT NOBODY WOULD. THE MORNING HOUSE LAY EMPTY. THE CLOCK TICKED ON, REPEATING AND REPEATING ITS SOUNDS INTO THE EMPTINESS. *SEVEN-NINE, BREAKFAST TIME, SEVEN-NINE!*"

-- Ray Bradbury,
"There Will Come Soft Rains"

GABRIEL





FUCK.

YEAH.

YOU
SOUND...ANGRY
WITH HER.



I DON'T LIKE HAVING MY
HAND FORCED. I WANTED
TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON
MY OWN TERMS.

GREGORY
ISN'T HAPPY
ABOUT IT
EITHER.

I DON'T
CARE WHETHER
GREGORY IS
HAPPY.



YOU *SHOULD*.



GOD. WHY
DOES AMANDA
GET THESE
FUCKING
MENTHOLS?
THEY'RE
TERRIBLE.



CAN I ASK
YOU A DUMB
QUESTION?



YOU HAVE MANY
TIMES BEFORE.



NO PLANS
TO STOP.



THE REST OF YOU ARE FUCKING **SMART**. YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT IT FROM, LIKE, TEN THOUSAND FEET UP, AND I NOD ALONG AND PRETEND I UNDERSTAND.



BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK IT **IS**?



THE UNDERNET?



YEAH.



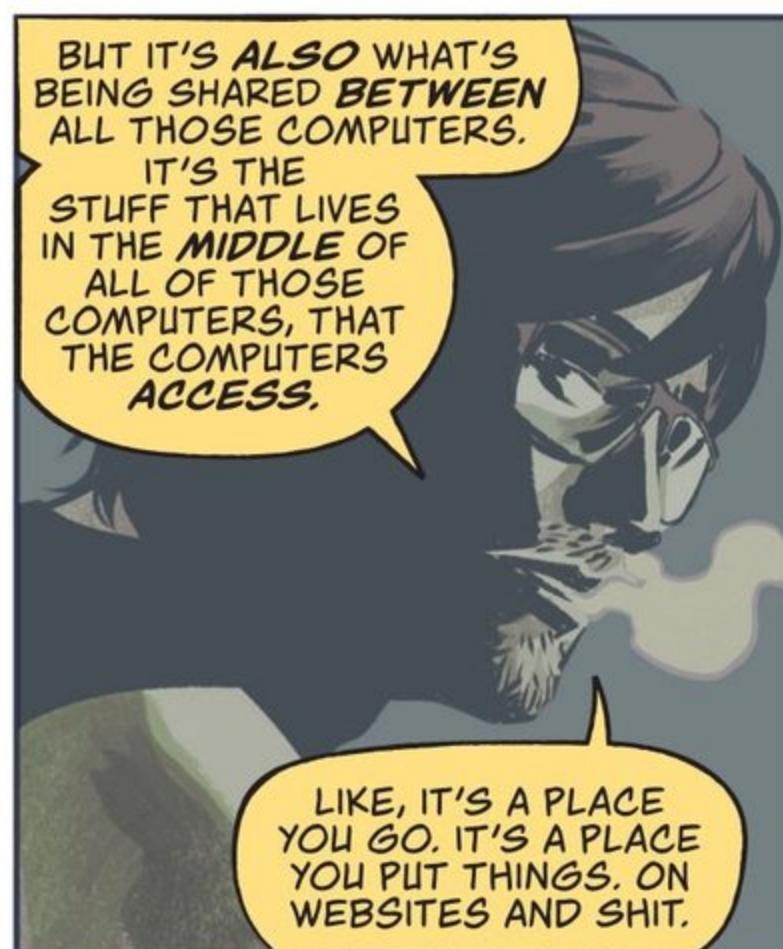
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE **INTERNET** IS?



I DON'T WANT TO DO, LIKE, FUCKING **INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS**, GABE.

THIS IS IMPORTANT.

WELL, I GUESS ON ONE HAND, IT'S JUST, LIKE...THE METHOD BY WHICH A BUNCH OF COMPUTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE CONNECTED.



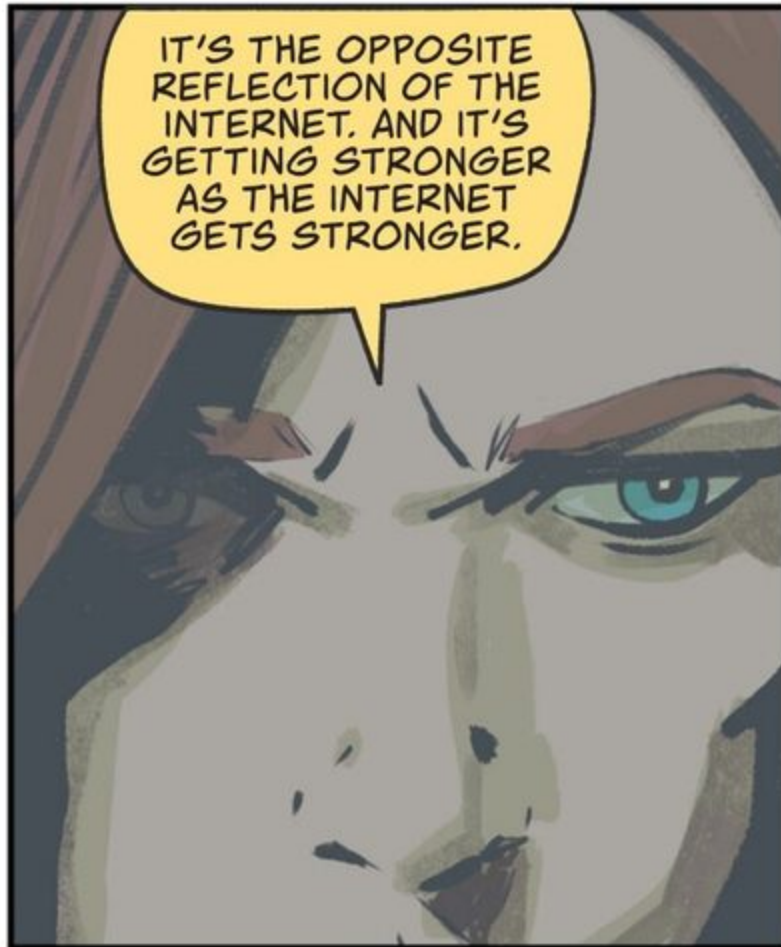
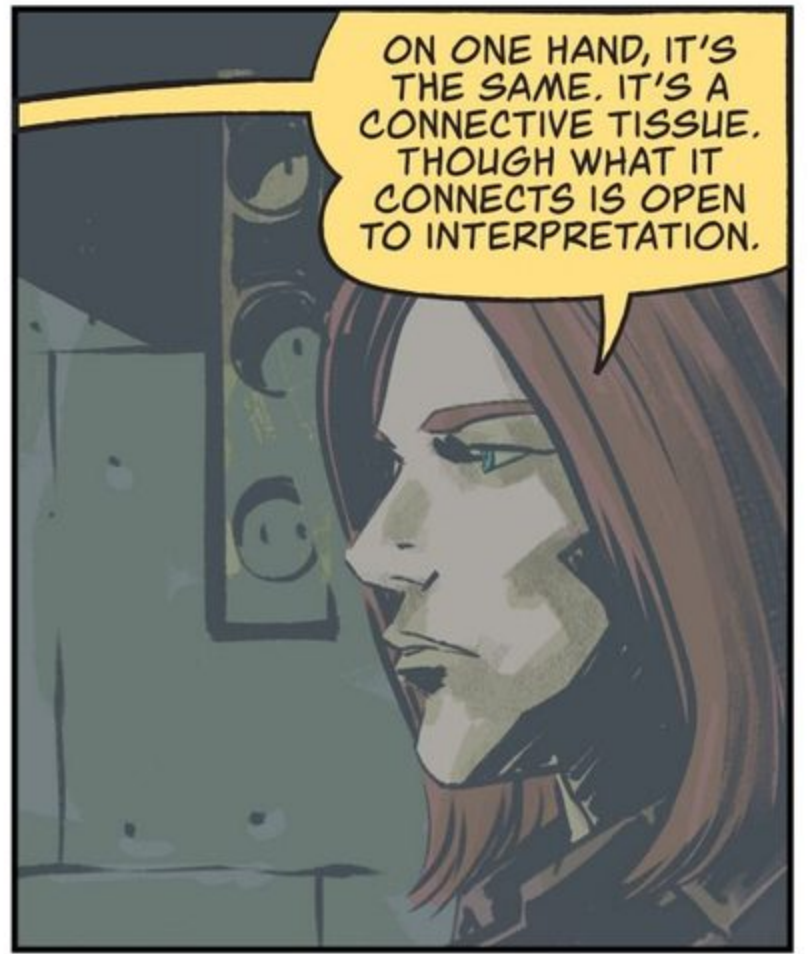
BUT IT'S **ALSO** WHAT'S BEING SHARED **BETWEEN** ALL THOSE COMPUTERS.

IT'S THE STUFF THAT LIVES IN THE **MIDDLE** OF ALL OF THOSE COMPUTERS, THAT THE COMPUTERS **ACCESS**.

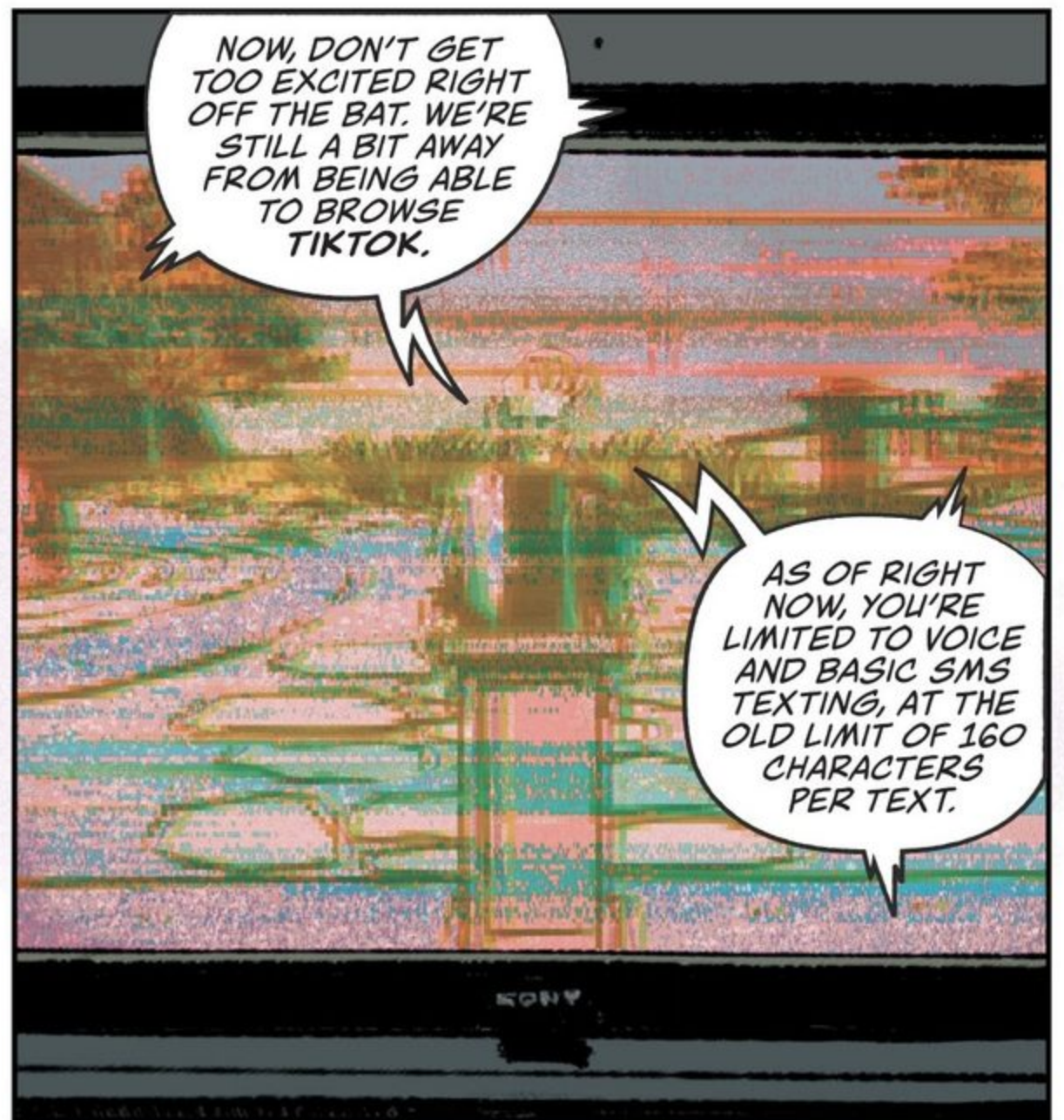
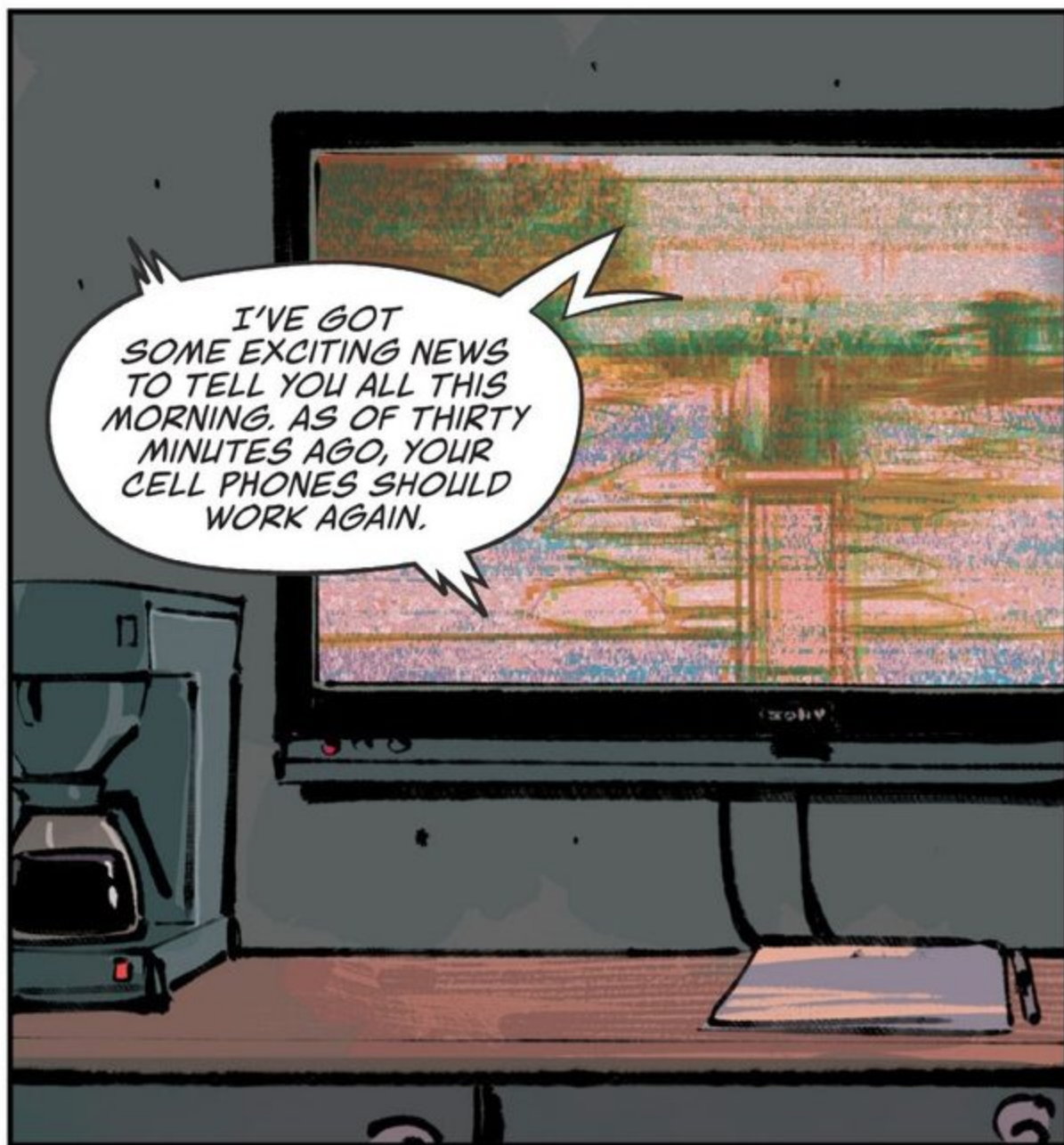
LIKE, IT'S A PLACE YOU GO. IT'S A PLACE YOU PUT THINGS. ON WEBSITES AND SHIT.

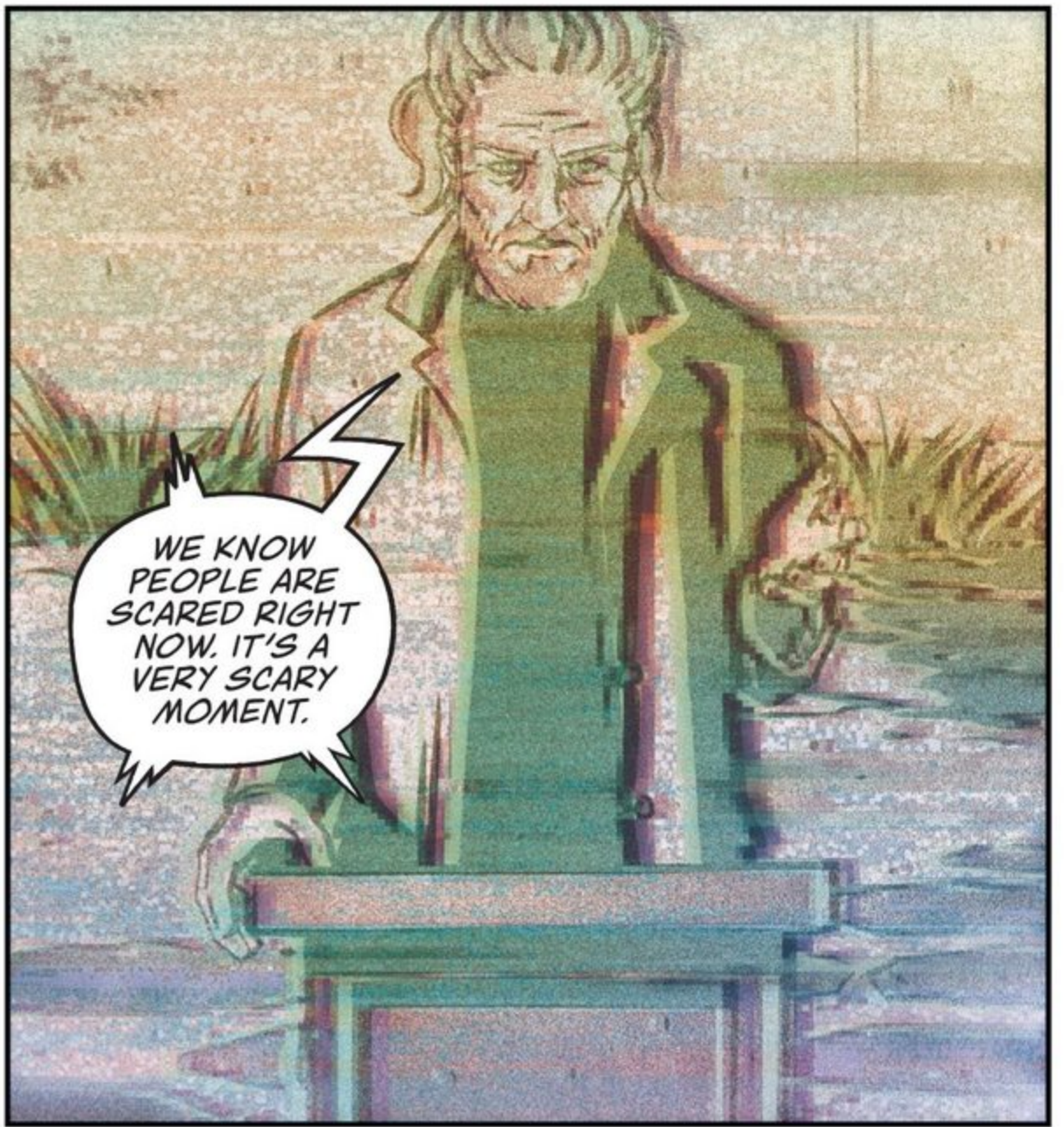


SEE, YOU'RE **PLENTY** SMART.



2024









YES, WELL. **THINGS CHANGE**, AND YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT SHE DOESN'T DESERVE A STAKE, AND YOU MAY GET FULL CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILDREN IN A CIVIL COURT.

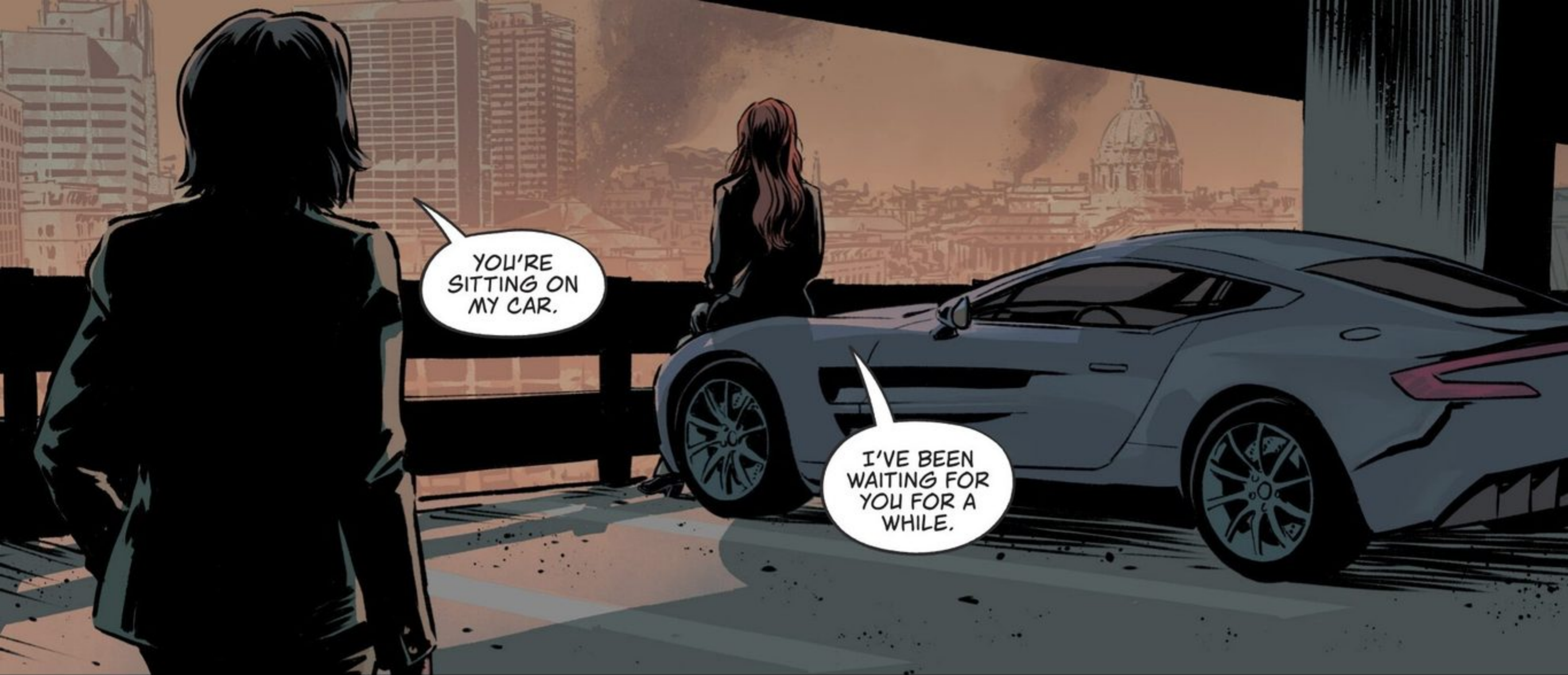
BUT THAT IMPLIES THAT YOU HAVE THE FINANCIAL BACKING TO SURVIVE A FEW YEARS ENGAGED IN MULTIPLE COSTLY LAWSUITS.

INSTEAD OF TAKING A MONTHLY STIPEND THAT COVERS ESSENTIAL COSTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY **GENEROUSLY** OVER THE NEXT MANY YEARS.

IN EXCHANGE FOR SILENCE.

YES. I THINK YOU SHOULD SLEEP ON IT. YOU HAVE MY NUMBER, AND AS YOU CLEARLY HEARD, OUR MOBILES ARE BACK ONLINE.

FUCK YO--



YOU'RE SITTING ON MY CAR.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR A WHILE.



IS THAT SO?

IT'S FUNNY. IT'S BEEN HARD TO TRACK DOWN WHERE EXACTLY YOU WORK. WHERE YOUR OFFICES ARE. THE CARD YOU GAVE ME IN PENNSYLVANIA WAS FOR A SHELL COMPANY.



I HAVE VERY SECRETEIVE CLIENTS, WHO HIRE ME FOR SPECIFIC JOBS. EVERYTHING I DO IS ABOVE BOARD AND LEGAL, I ASSURE YOU.

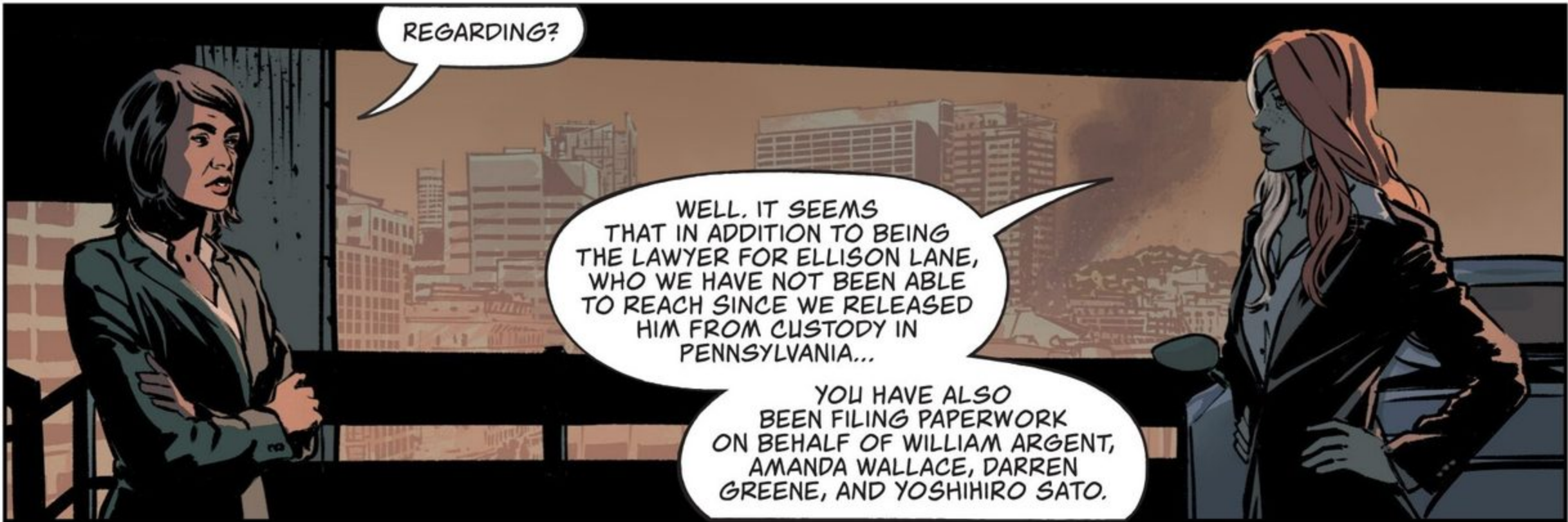
IN ANY CASE, I IMAGINED THAT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WOULD BE ABLE TO SORT THROUGH.



I MEAN. WE DID. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

THAT'S *HOW* YOU'RE HERE. NOT *WHY* YOU'RE HERE. TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE, SPECIAL AGENT SILK.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

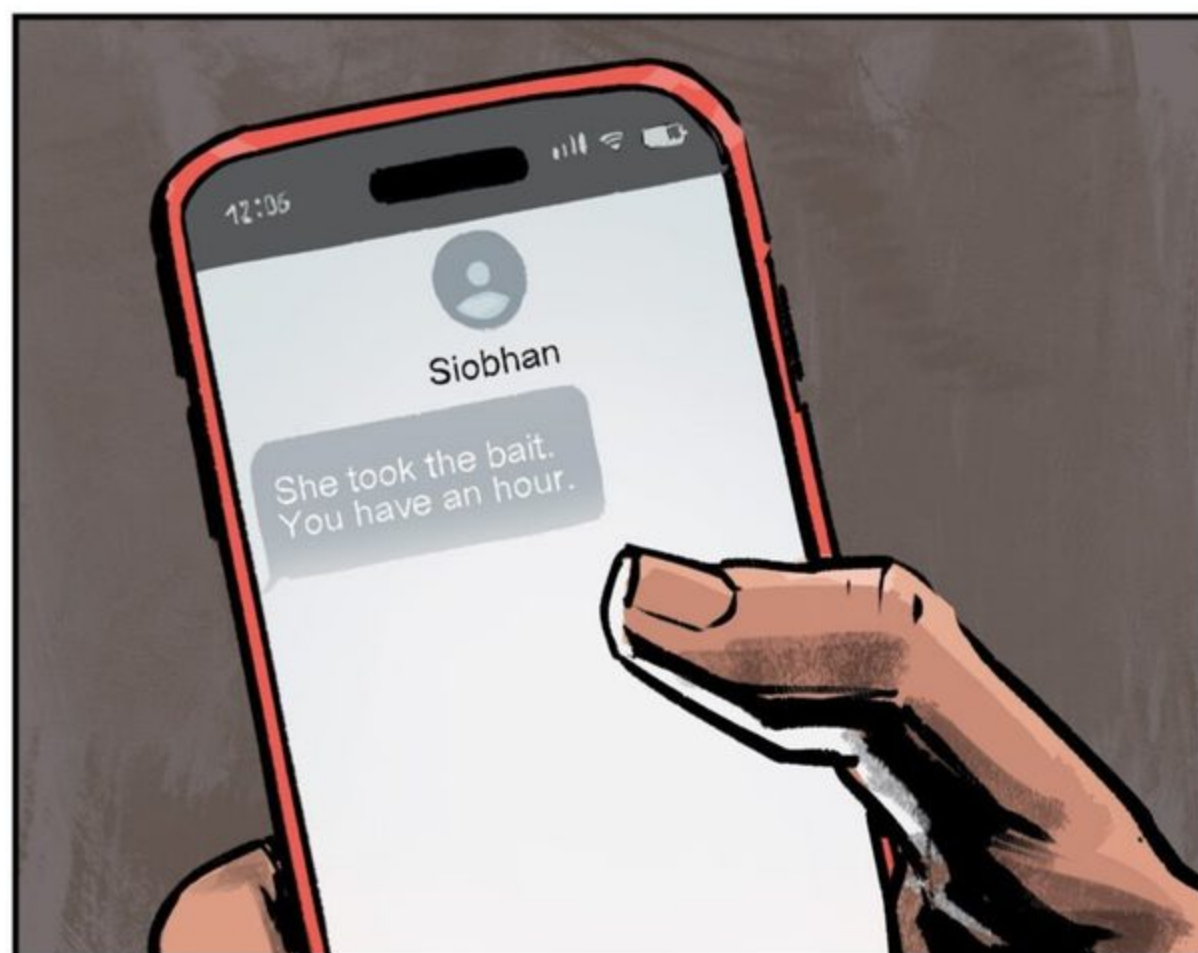


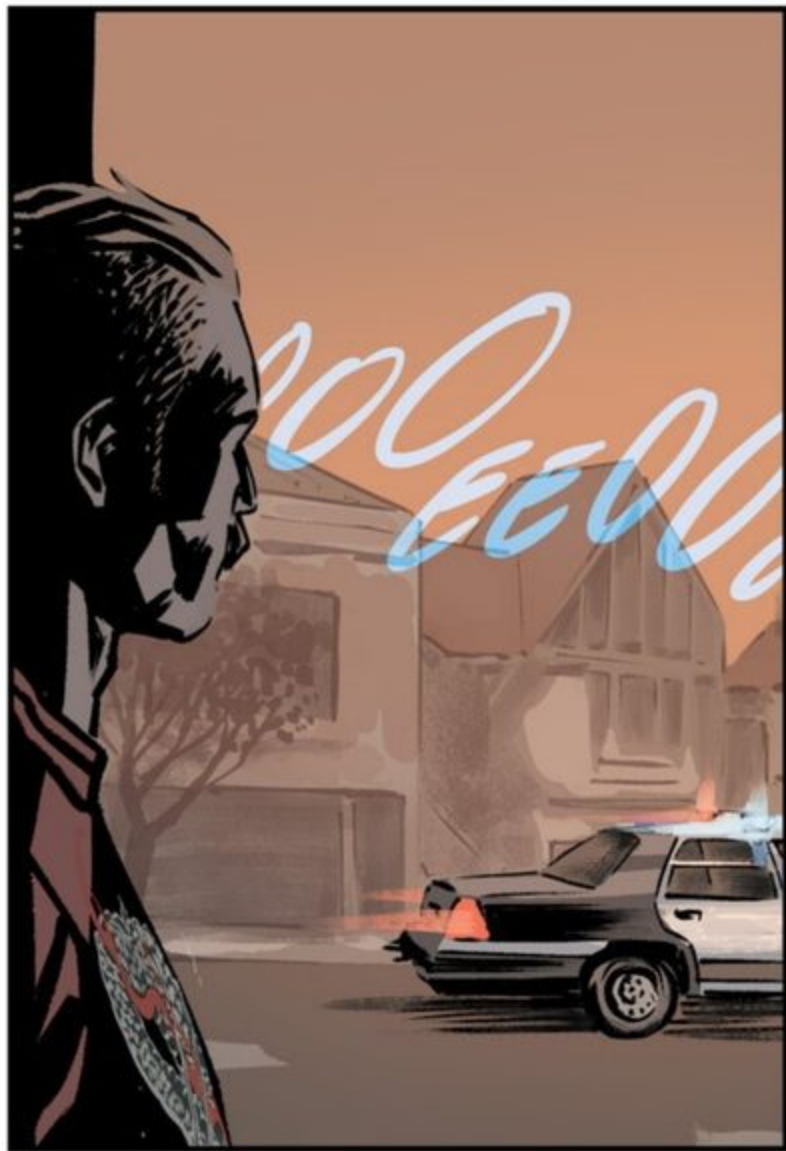
REGARDING?

WELL. IT SEEMS THAT IN ADDITION TO BEING THE LAWYER FOR ELLISON LANE, WHO WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH SINCE WE RELEASED HIM FROM CUSTODY IN PENNSYLVANIA...

YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN FILING PAPERWORK ON BEHALF OF WILLIAM ARGENT, AMANDA WALLACE, DARREN GREENE, AND YOSHIHIRO SATO.

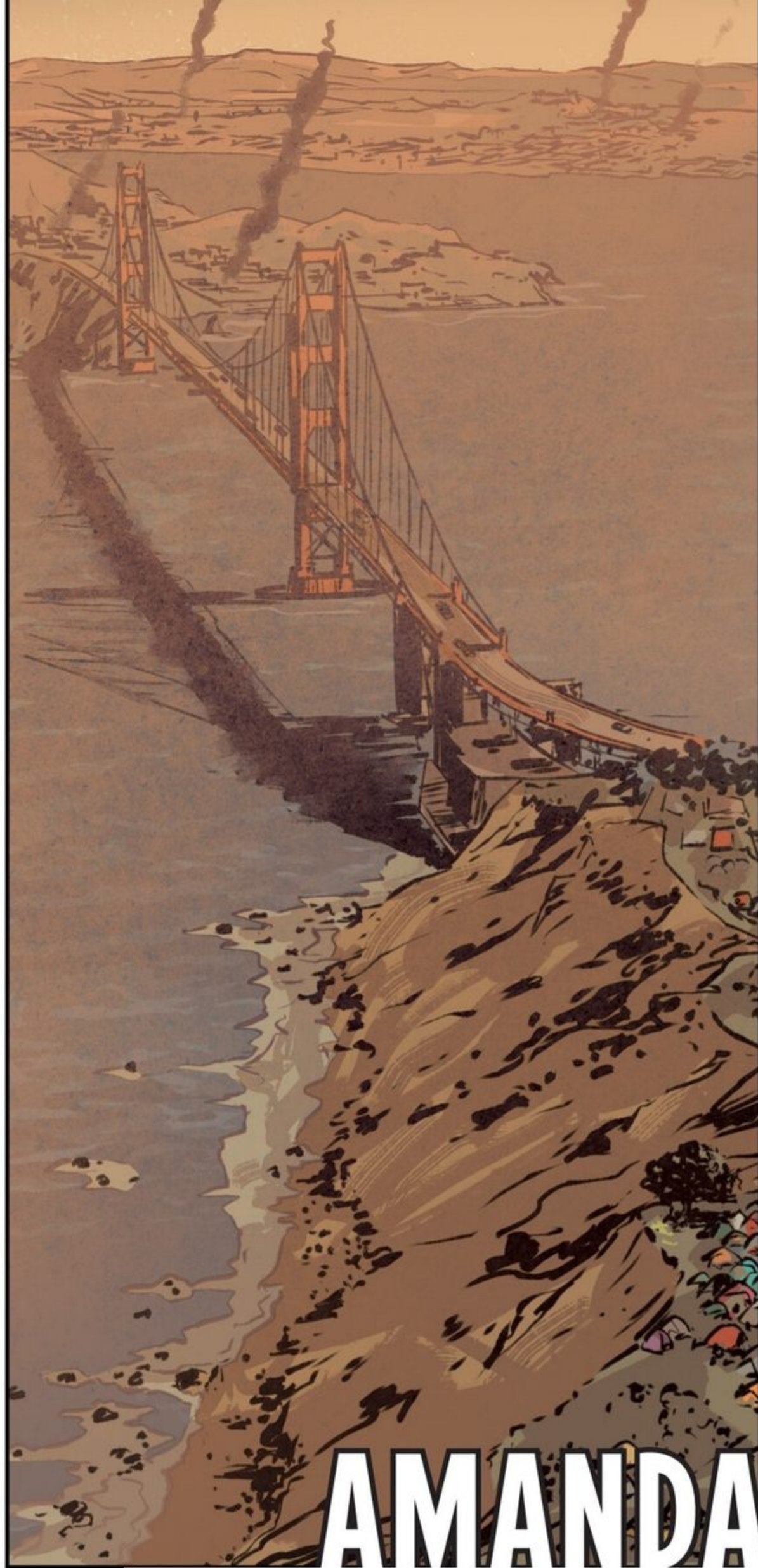












AMANDA



THEY SHOULD
BE BACK BY
NOW.

THESE
THINGS TAKE
TIME.



AND UNTIL
THEN, YOU'RE
HAPPY JUST
SITTING HERE,
RIGHT OUT IN
THE OPEN.

OUT IN THE
OPEN IS A PERFECTLY
NORMAL PLACE TO BE.
WE DON'T LOOK
SUSPICIOUS.



WE LOOK LIKE TWO
PEOPLE WHO USED
TO FUCK WHO DON'T
KNOW HOW TO SIT
NEXT TO EACH
OTHER.

YEAH.
PERFECTLY
NORMAL.



THIS STILL FEELS LIKE BITING THE HAND THAT QUITE LITERALLY FEEDS US.



I FUCKING HATE LAWYERS.

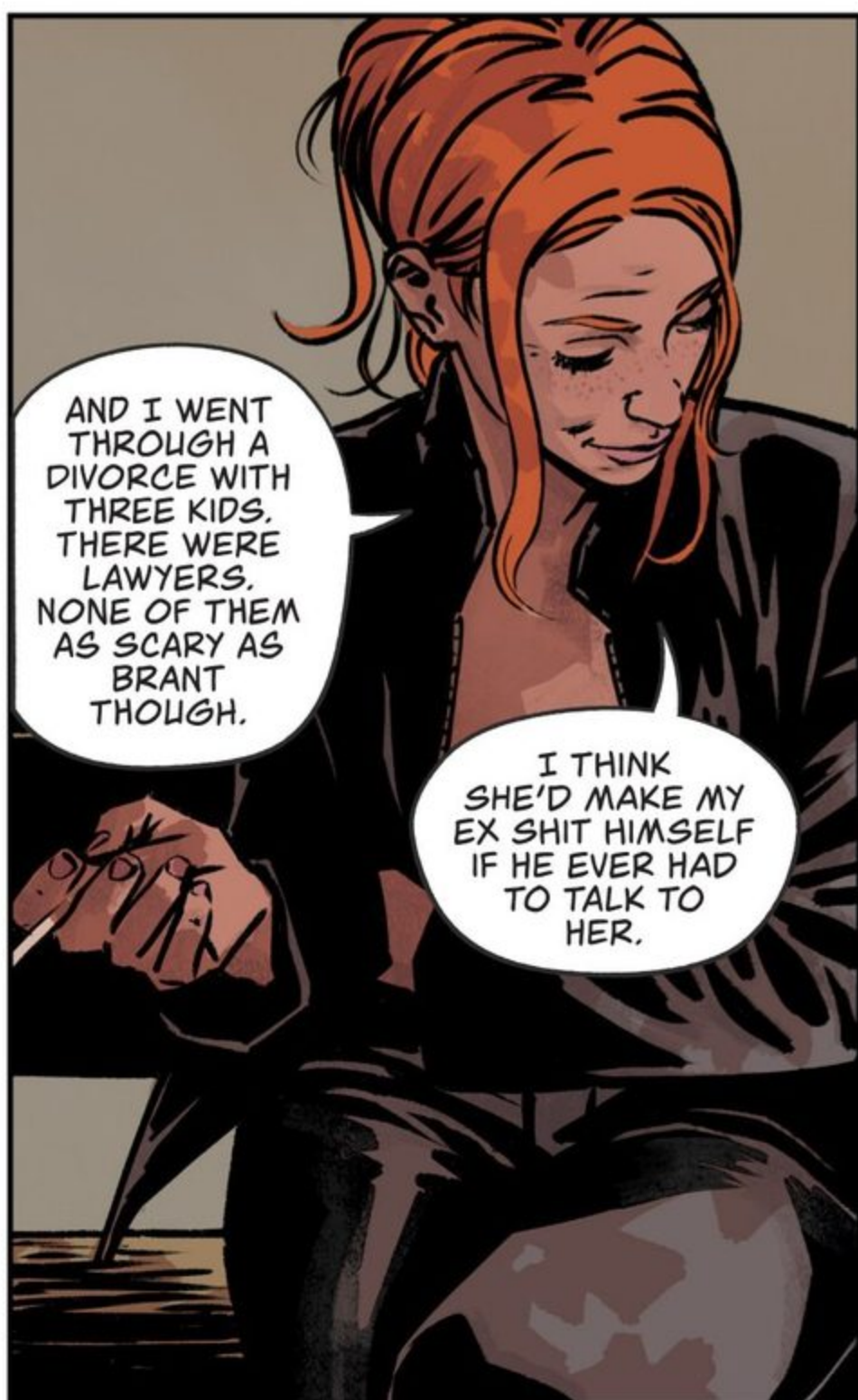
DO YOU EVEN KNOW ANY LAWYERS?

WHAT SINGLE GUYS DO YOU THINK I'M DATING IN AUSTIN?



WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT GABRIEL DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW. BRANT HAS THAT INFORMATION, AND SHE'S NOT ALLOWED TO TELL IT TO US.

WE COULD TRY TO SCARE HER INTO TELLING US, BUT SHE DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS SOMEONE WHO SCARES EASY.



AND I WENT THROUGH A DIVORCE WITH THREE KIDS. THERE WERE LAWYERS. NONE OF THEM AS SCARY AS BRANT THOUGH.

I THINK SHE'D MAKE MY EX SHIT HIMSELF IF HE EVER HAD TO TALK TO HER.



DO YOU MISS THEM?

MY EX?

YOUR BOYS.

OF COURSE, I DO.



BUT...

FUCK YOU.

THERE WAS A "BUT" AT THE END OF THAT SENTENCE.



IT'S LIKE THERE'S A WHOLE OTHER LIFE THAT FEELS ON PAUSE BACK IN TEXAS. AND IT'S A GOOD LIFE. I WISH MY KIDS HAD A LITTLE BIT MORE PERSONALITY?



TOO MUCH OF GRANT IN THEM, I GUESS.



OF COURSE, I MISS THEM.



BUT IT WAS EASY TO LEAVE.



EASIER THAN I EXPECTED, YEAH. BUT I THINK IT'LL BE EASIER TO PICK IT ALL BACK UP AGAIN IF WE LIVE THROUGH THIS.

IT'LL BE THE FEW MONTHS MOMMY WENT OUT AND SAVED THE WORLD.



IT'S WEIRD
BEING SO
CLOSE.

CLOSE?

WE GREW UP
JUST DOWN THE
BAY FROM HERE.
THERE'S STILL A
PART OF ME THAT
THINKS, LIKE...



WE'RE SO
DESPERATE
TO FIND OUT
WHAT GABRIEL
KNEW. WE
SHOULD JUST
GO ASK.



DRIVE
DOWN
TO PALO
ALTO.

I FEEL LIKE
WE'D FIND HIM IN HIS
SHITTY CHAIR IN THAT
GARAGE THAT WAS
ALWAYS SO FUCKING
HOT I WANTED TO DIE.



THAT'S THE
THING ABOUT
BEING BACK
IN THE MIDDLE
OF ALL OF
THIS. IT FEELS
LIKE WE'RE
STILL IN HIGH
SCHOOL. RIGHT
AT THE
BEGINNING.



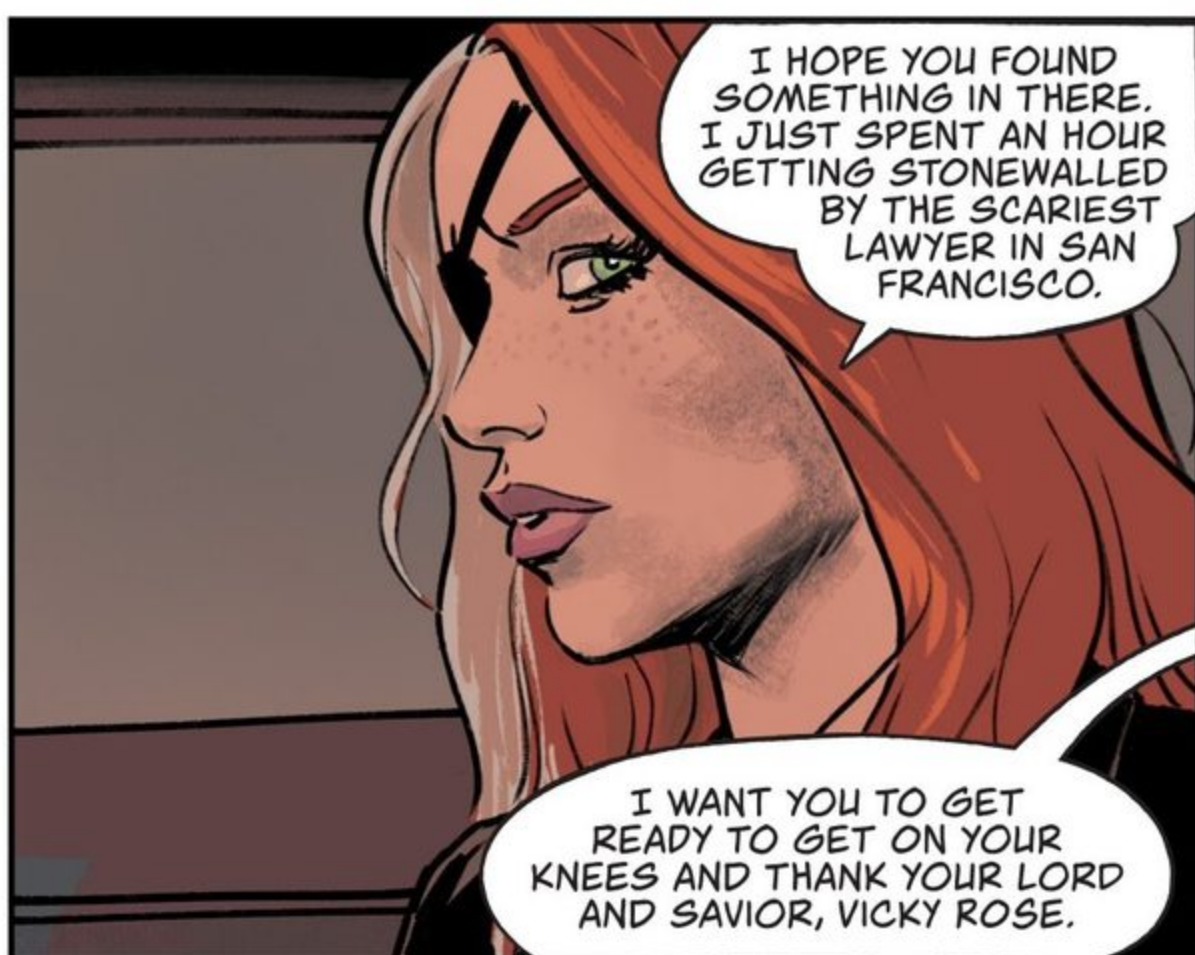
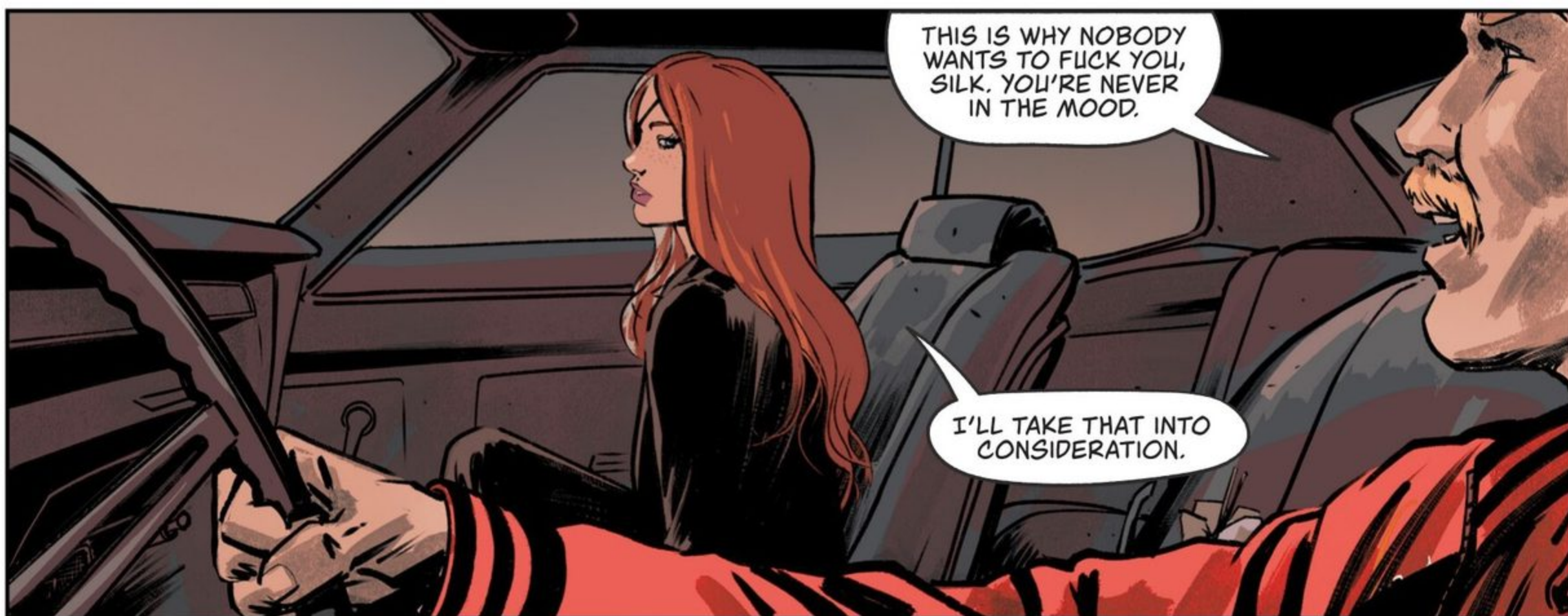
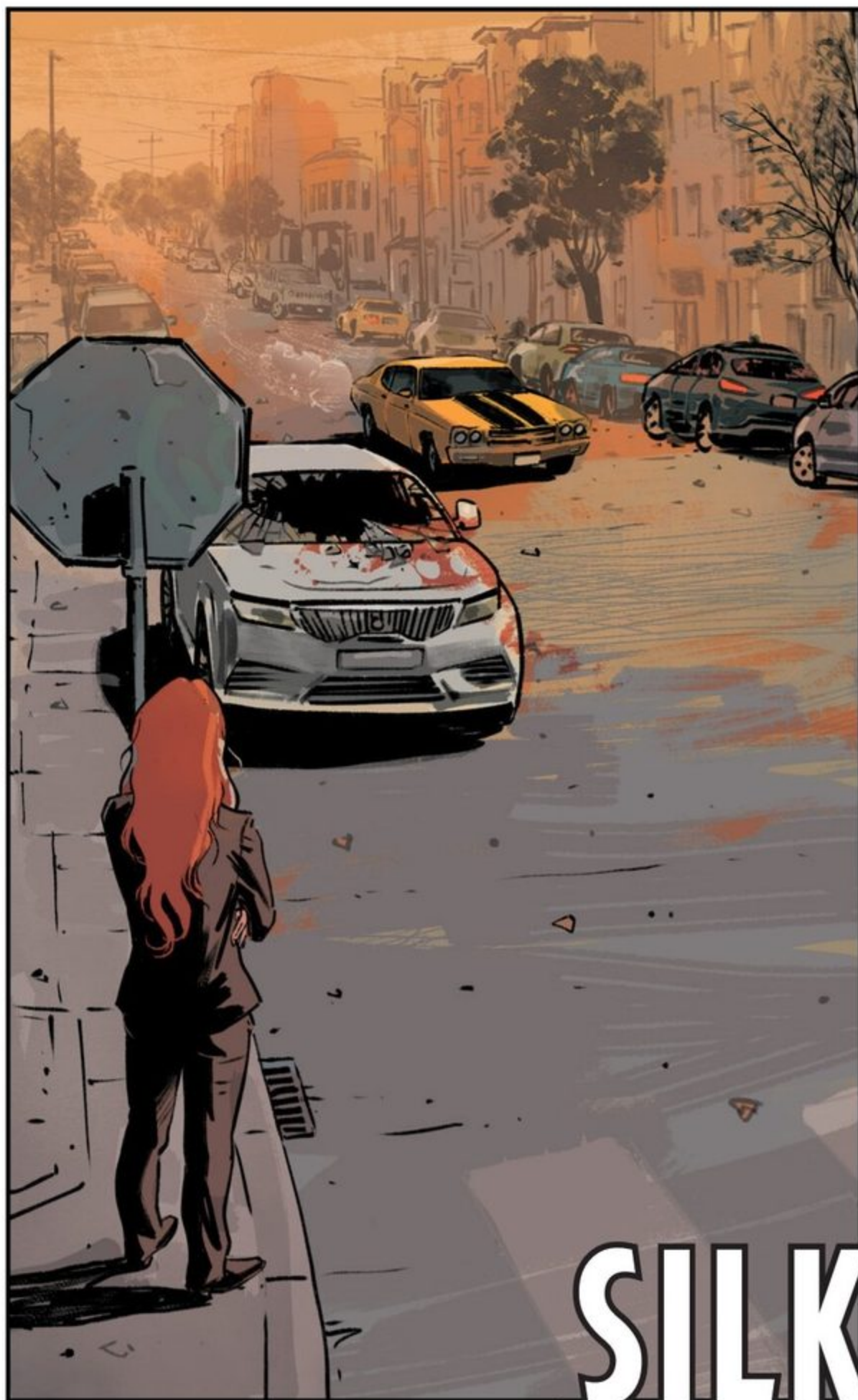
WE WERE
BETTER AT
BREAKING
THE TENSION
BACK THEN.

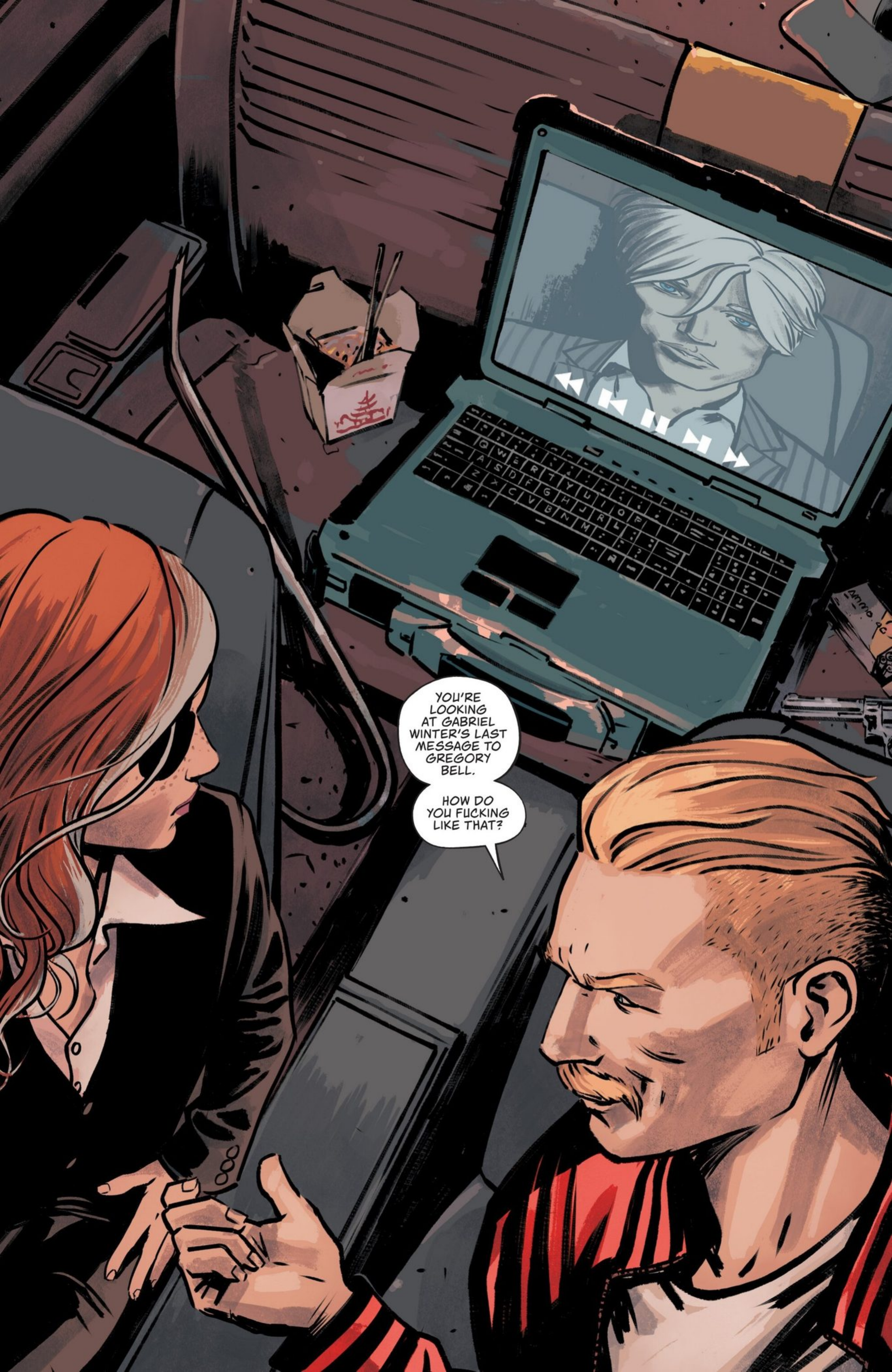
SCREW YOU.
YOU ALREADY
GOT YOUR PITY
FUCK AT THE
END OF THE
WORLD.

PITY
FUCK?!







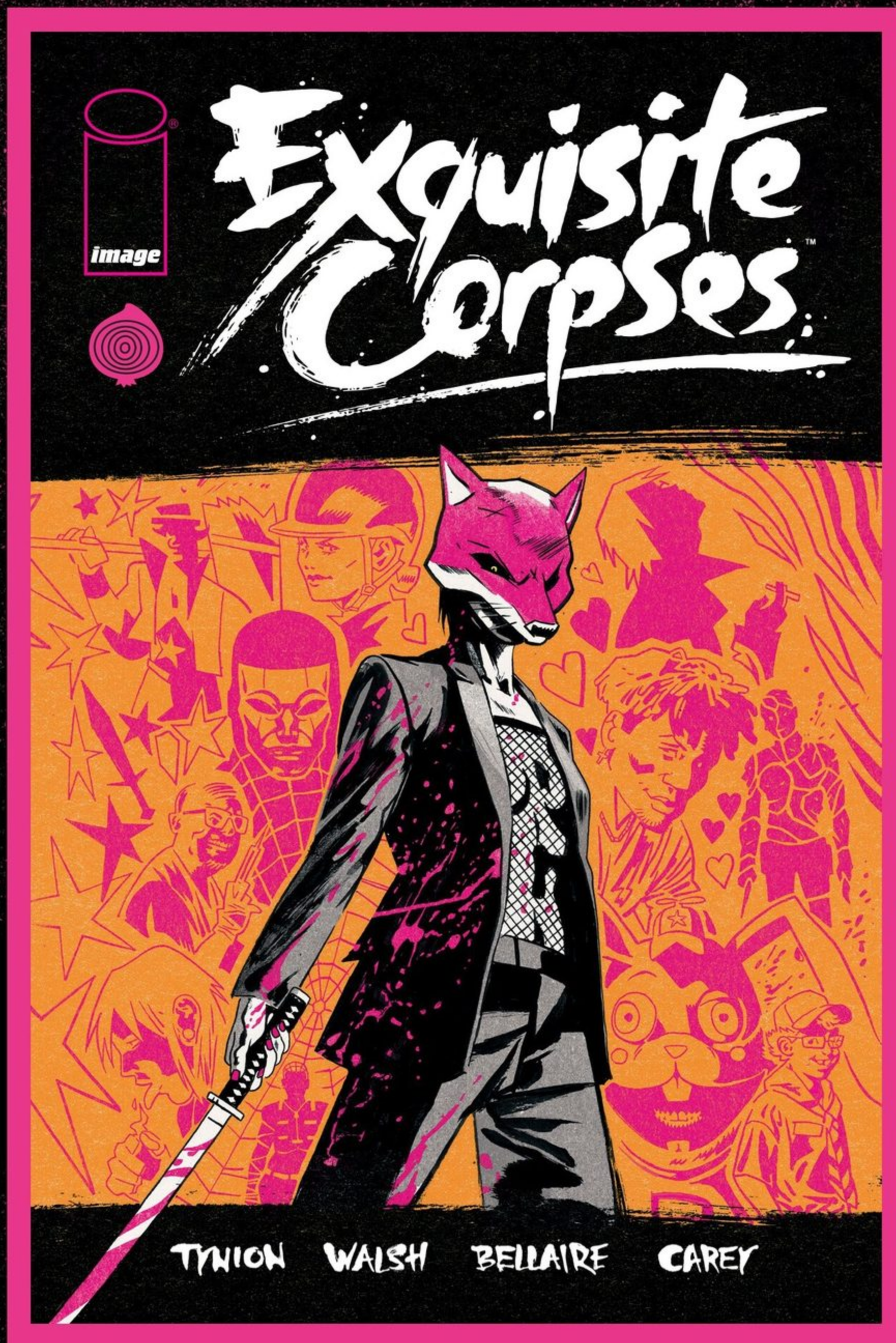


YOU'RE
LOOKING
AT GABRIEL
WINTER'S LAST
MESSAGE TO
GREGORY
BELL.

HOW DO
YOU FUCKING
LIKE THAT?



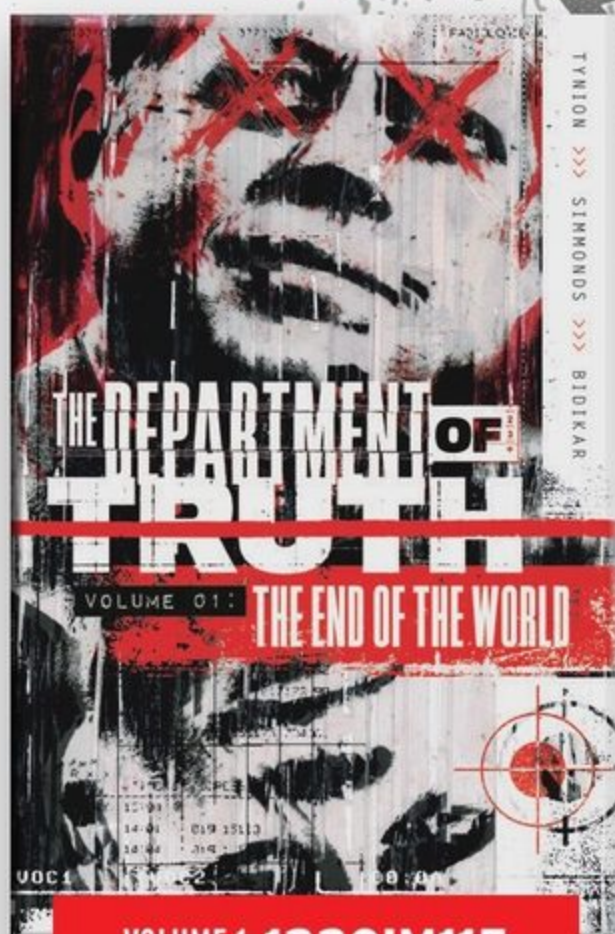
THE HORROR EVENT
OF THE YEAR IS HERE.



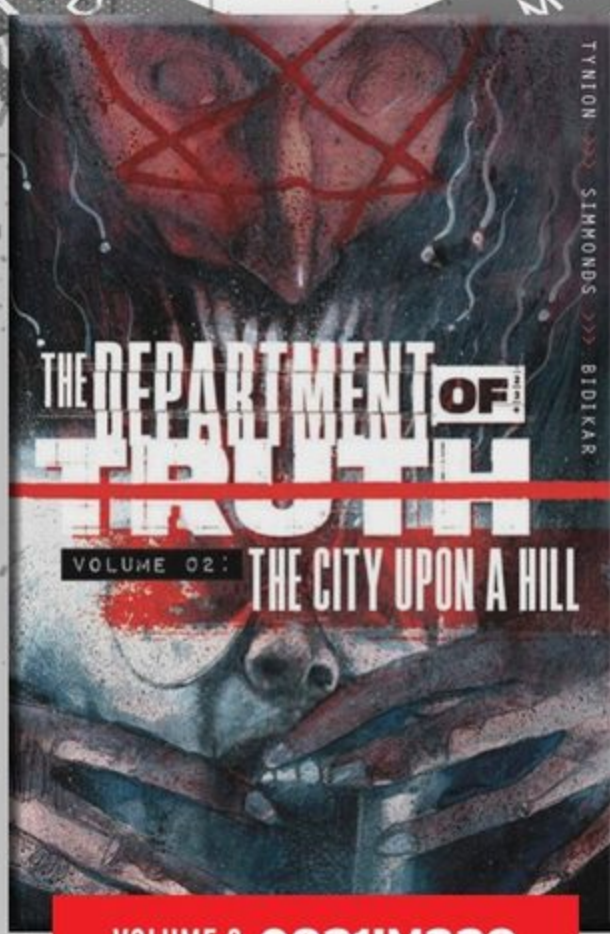
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—GEOFF JOHNS (GEIGER, GREEN LANTERN)

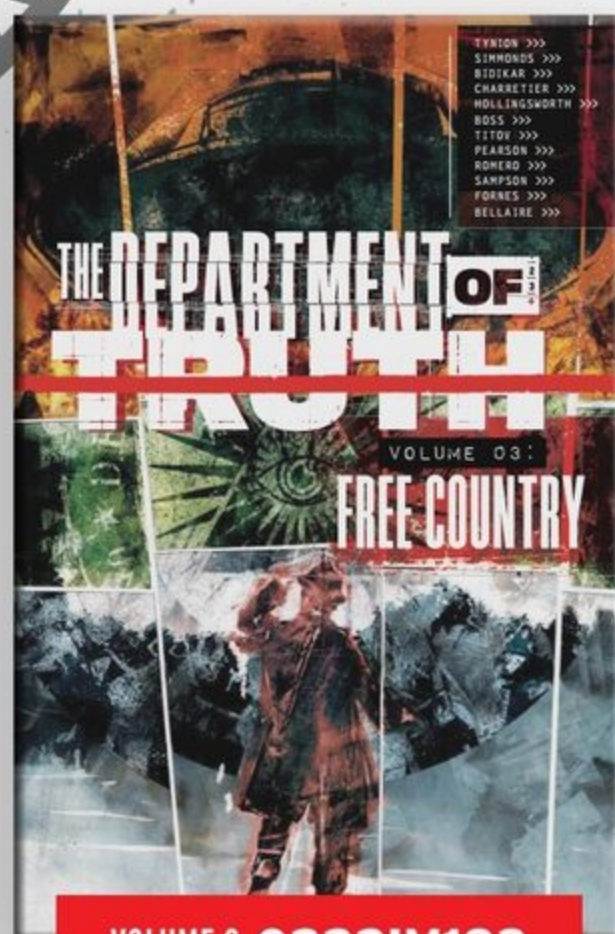
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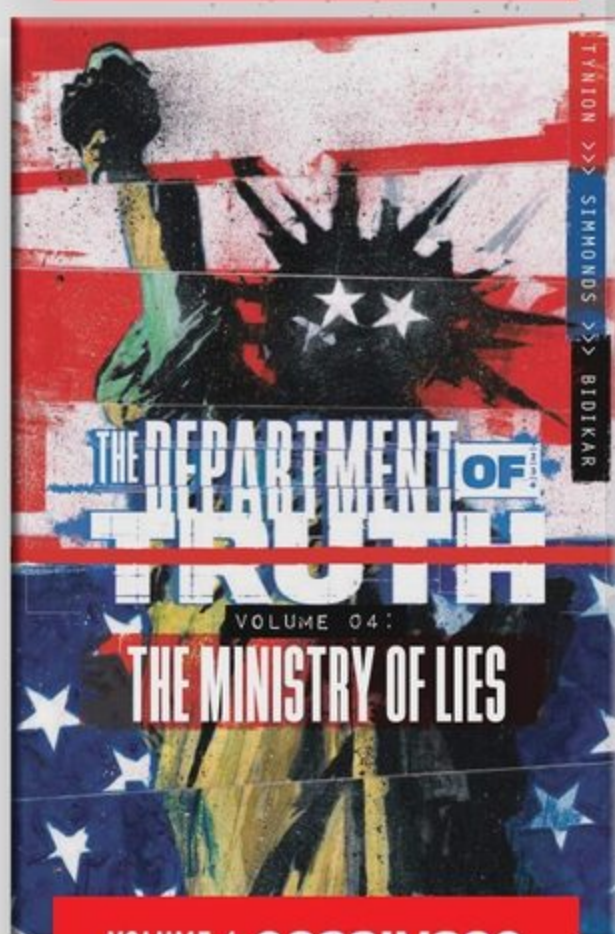
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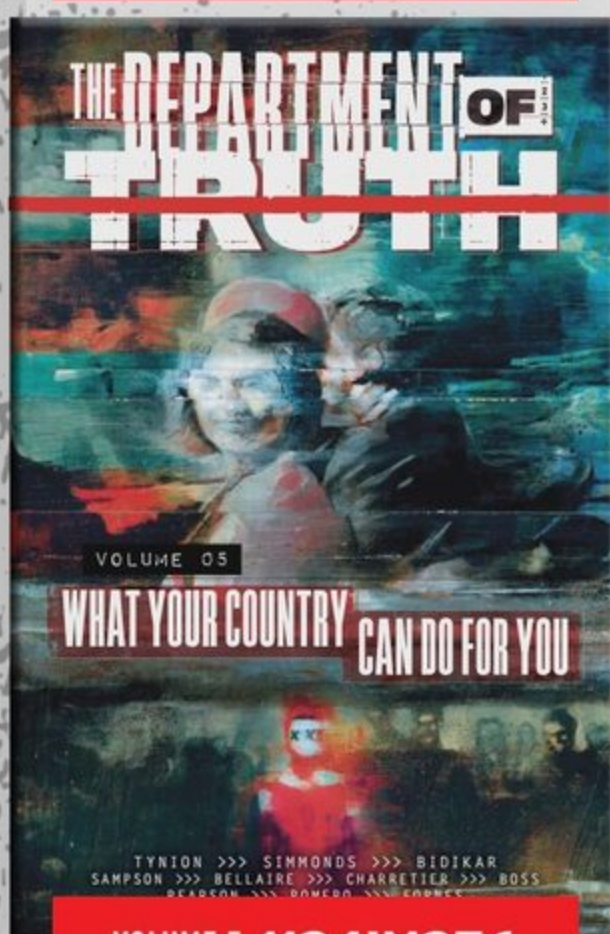
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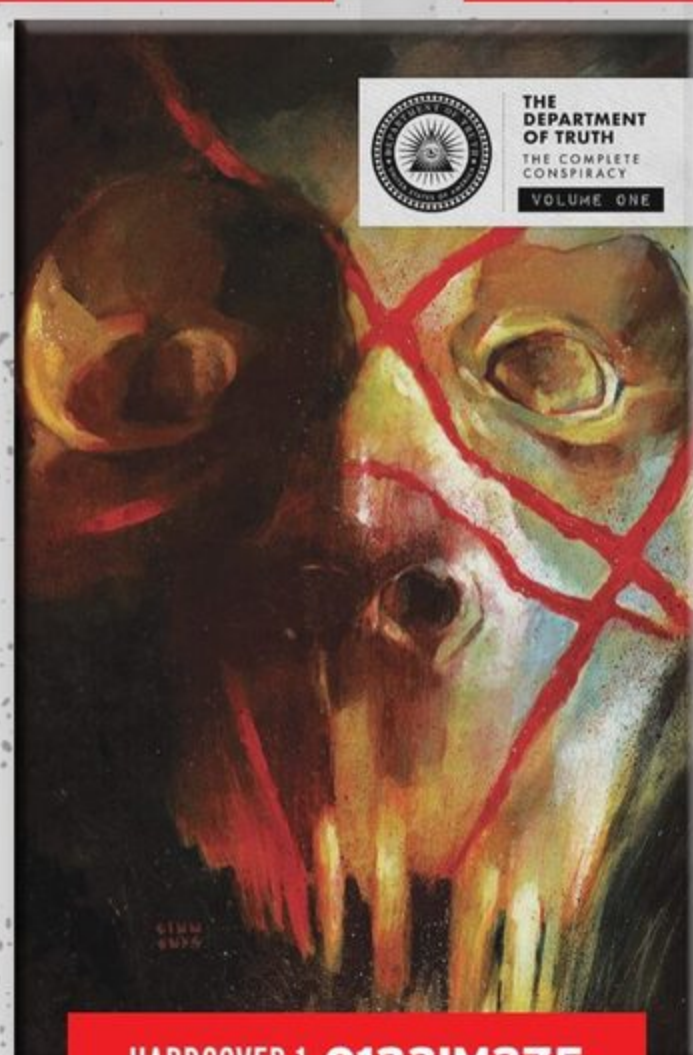
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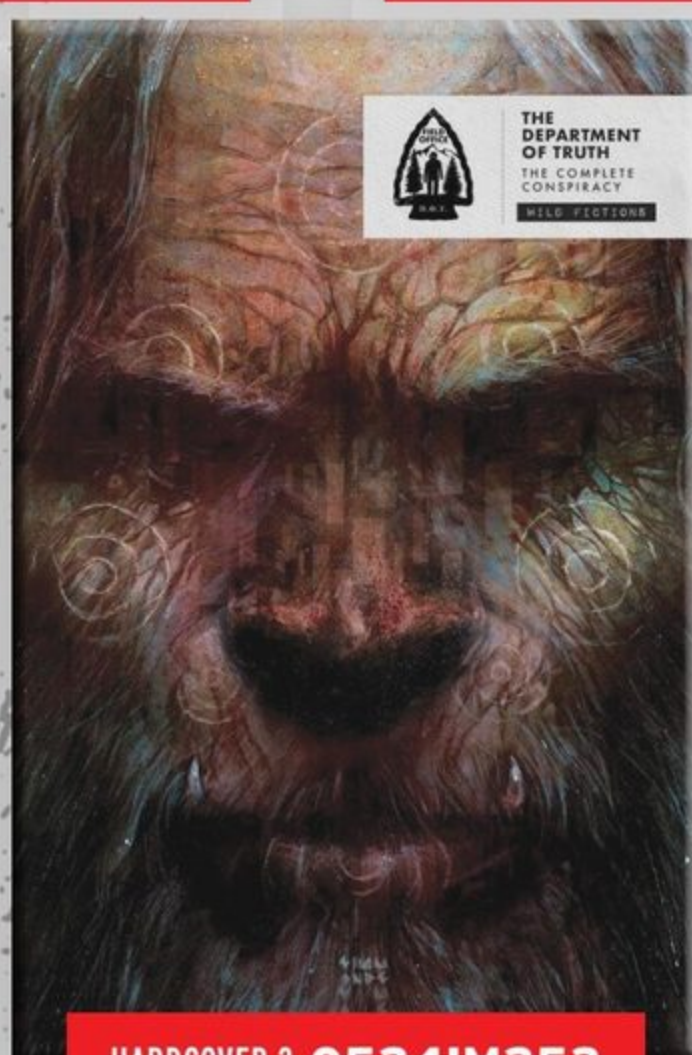
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the DEVIANT™



A Christmas Story by
JAMES TYNION IV and JOSHUA HIXSON
with HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

This holiday season...

...unwrap the nightmare
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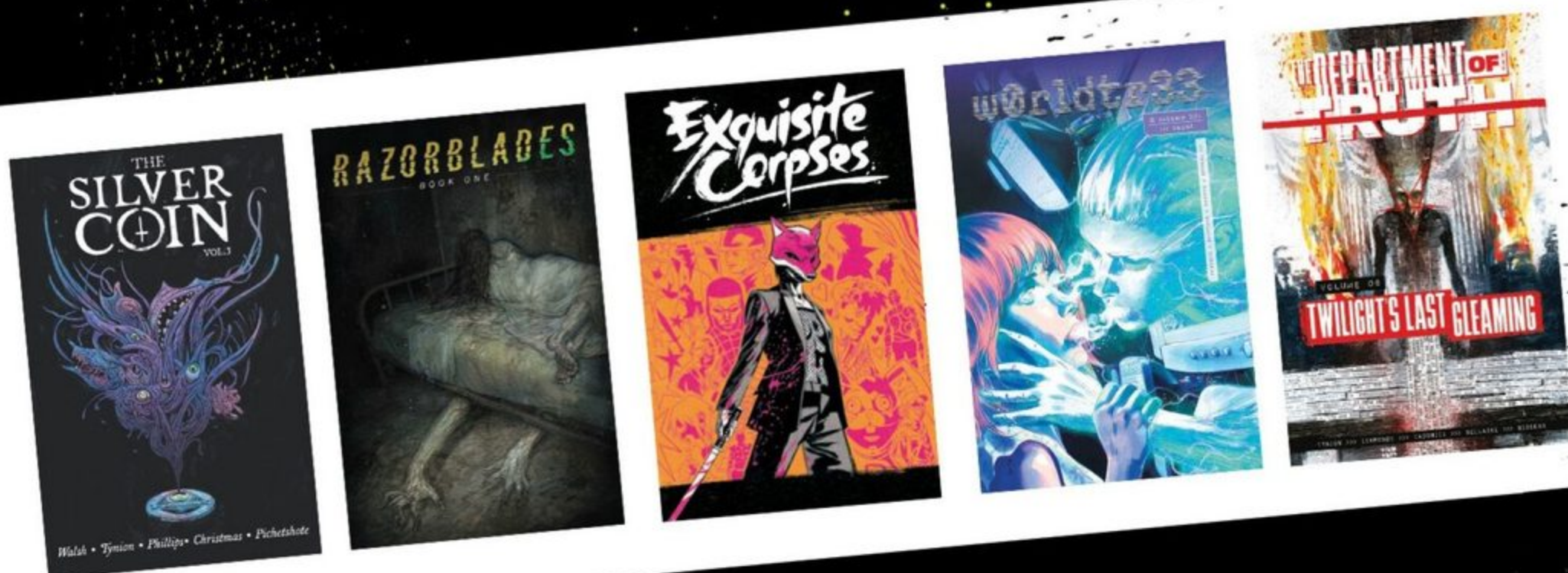
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MUST-READ COMICS FROM THE MIND OF

JAMES TYNION IV

OUT NOW



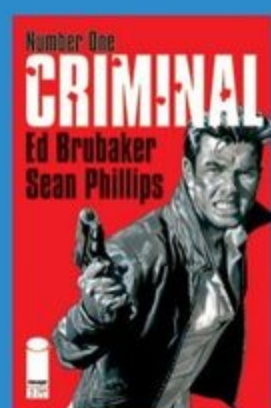
DECEMBER AT IMAGE



It's the season for giving. Hence, it's also the season for buying comics which are similarly seasonal. **Startling Tales Of Santa #1** is Benito Cereno [*Hector Plasm, Blood & Thunder*] and his artist chums finding six ways to show how WEIRD St. Nick stuff is. There's a mixture of humanity and folklore so berserk that I'm not sure whether Benito is making it up or not. Plus Santa kicking Lovecraftian ass. The star has to be the boy who poops seasonal treats when he's beaten with sticks. Wow.



Dread the Halls 2025 #1 takes a similar large-anthology approach to *Startling Tales*, but digs in a different direction from the Santa-focus. Specifically, towards the graveyard, and when it's there, it keeps on digging until it has enough corpses for its evil purposes. Chris Ryall [*Onyx*] and Jordan Hart [*The Cabinet*] write four stories with distinctly different vibes. Seeing Luana Vecchio [*Lovesick*] illustrate a Hallmark-movie take on *Midsommar* was a special Christmas treat.



This may not be Christmas-y, but it sure is special. **Giant Size Criminal #1** is a surprise direction for Sean and Ed, where Tracy Lawless panics when a skyscraper-sized pickpocket moves into the city. No, of course not. This is *Criminal*, one of the best comics of the last 20 years, and if you've been intrigued by the forthcoming Amazon series, this is designed to be your entry point to the original. I love it so much I even designed a small RPG for it. I don't even know if I'm being paid.



But it's not just larger-than-usual specials this month – we have a similarly hefty 40 pages of **Inferno Girl Red: Book Two**, which continues to expand the Massive-Verse with Mat Groom [*Spider-Verse vs Venomverse*] and Erica D'Urso [*Immortal Legend Batman*] serving up looks and magical-superhero teen energy. It's my first time with Inferno Girl, and I could feel the Buffy-goes-high-tech-Henshin energy seething off it and the power of Friends To Lovers or Maybe The Other Way Around is strong.



Finally, **Wrestle Heist** has Kyle Starks [*Peacemaker Tries Hard, Sexcastle, I Hate This Place*] returning to writing and drawing, which is just a delight. I'm not a wrestling person (except for being told I look a bit like Claudio Castagnoli, presumably after a wasting disease) but I have a real weakness for all things ring-drama. And in this case, crime-drama, too, as a nice-guy-playing-heel decides he's had enough and is going home with the big prize. Not Christmas-y at all, but a gift.

Kieron Gillen writes **The Power Fantasy** and **DIE: Loaded**.



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RATED M / MATURE

ISSUE 17

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

